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NSC BRIEFING

1 December 1954

SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

I. Ouster of General Hinh.

A. His statement to Paris press

he would return to Saigon

"whatever Bao Dai's decision"

presumably touched off dis-  
missal.

B. But terms of dismissal indicate

Bao Dai abandoning equivocal  
stand.

II. Army-government reconciliation will

not be automatic.

A. Hinh once said he would oppose  
Diem politically if fired.

B. Boasted he could carry out  
coup from Paris.

C. Had begun putting his men in  
key positions before leaving  
Saigon.

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D. Tension within army still high.

E. Ely has feared Diem-Hinh  
dispute might be replaced by  
conflict between premier and  
General Vy, Hinh's replacement.

F. Vy lacks Diem's confidence.

III. Hinh is political lightweight, but  
backing of French elements offset  
this.

A. Hinh's French backers can  
switch to other anti-Diem  
champions.

B. French military has vested  
interest anti-Diem feeling  
in army, since Diem favors  
US takeover of training.

C. French radio in Saigon warns  
Viets against "heavy hand"  
of U.S.

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IV. Meanwhile, Viet Minh making capital  
in South.

- A. Their shadow government  
extending control despite  
formal troop withdrawal.
- B. This facilitated by wide-  
spread feeling Viet Minh  
takeover is mere matter of  
time.
- C. Viet Minh troop evacuees  
convinced removal only  
temporary, satisfied to  
leave their dependents.

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